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OUTSTANDING EVENT IN THE HISTORY OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE

-North Vietnam-

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FOREWORD

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OUTSTANDING EVENT IN THE HISTORY OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE

[Following is the translation of an article by G. Bushuyev and K. Yur'yev in Sovremennyy Vostok, No 2, Moscow, 2 February 1961, pages 7-9.]

The Vietnamese people referred to the III Congress of the Workers' Party of Vietnam, which took place in September of 1960, as a congress of the builders of socialism and a congress of the struggle for the peaceful unification of the country.

The workers of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam responded to the convocation of the Congress with a new upsurge in labor and political activity. Patriotic competition became developed in the country. The workers of both the cities and the villages assumed the obligation to fulfill the plan for 1960 ahead of time, to conserve materials and funds; in addition to that they introduced rational proposals designed to improve production organization.

In the course of this competition among the largest enterprises of the country, such as the leader of domestic machine building, the Hanoi machine plant, the Kamphat and Mao Khet coal mines, the ZaAm locomotive maintenance plant, the Haiphong cement plant, the LaoKai apatite mine and others, hundreds of new production leaders and distinguished workers appeared.

The movement for unification of peasants into producers' cooperatives expanded during the period before the Congress. Various provinces competed in achieving high indices in agricultural production.

Many winners of the patriotic competition, members of the Workers' Party of Vietnam, were elected as delegates to the III Congress of the Party.

The III Congress of the Workers' Party of Vietnam pointed out in its resolutions that the workers of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam have achieved significant political and social-economic success. Since 1951 when the I Congress of the Workers' Party of Vietnam took place to 1954, the Vietnamese people under the direction of the Workers' Party, routed the imperialist aggressors and held the ground won during the August

Revolution. The Convention of Geneva which was signed in 1954 and recognized the sovereignty, the independence, the unity and the territorial entity of Vietnam, also signified an international recognition of the successes attained by the people's liberation struggle. North Vietnam was completely liberated and entered a period of transition to socialism. This was the greatest turning point in the history of the revolution. The victory of the Vietnamese people, as indicated in the resolution of the Congress, "is conclusive evidence that a small people suffering under colonial domination in the present day conditions, in joining under the leadership of the party of the working class, are able to rout the imperialist aggressors and to win true freedom and independence".

The resolution of the Congress states that the routing of the imperialist aggressors signified the culmination of the anti-imperialist, national-democratic stage of the revolution and the entrance of North Vietnam into a stage of transition, of the building of socialism. Due to the proper leadership by the Workers' Party, the enthusiasm of the workers, peasants and of the working intelligentsia as well as the unselfish aid by the USSR, the Chinese People's Republic and other socialist countries, the DRV (Demokraticeskaya Respublika V'yetnama -- The Democratic Republic of Vietnam) was able to resolve the problem of restoring the economy destroyed by the war, to bring to reality basic social-economic reorganizations and to undertake planned construction of the national economy within the shortest historical period.

During the period of restoration the state sector expanded considerably and achieved a leading role in all branches of the economy.

In 1958 the DRV began the fulfillment of the Three Year National Economic Plan, the principal problems of which consisted of a further increase in agricultural and industrial production, the realization of socialist reforms in agriculture, the handicraft industry, the private-capitalist industry and trade and a higher cultural and material level for the toiling masses.

In struggling for the fulfillment of the Three Year Plan, the workers of the DRV, under the direction of their party, attained significant successes. By 1960 the state sector accounted for 47.5% of the gross industrial and handicraft production, 70.3% of the overall volume of cargo turnover, 89% of the wholesale and 41.4% of the retail commodity turnover, and 100% of the banking operations. Gross agricultural production increased by 52.4% in 1959 by comparison with 1955.

By the time of the III Congress of the Workers' Party of Vietnam, there were approximately 34,000 agricultural cooperatives which included 54% of all the peasant households; over 70% of the handicraft workers in the country were amalgamated

into producers' groups and cooperatives; approximately 45% of all private industrial enterprises were reorganized into state-private enterprises.

Success in the area of economic development assured an improvement in the material welfare of the workers of the DRV. The incomes of the workers and employees increased by 77% between 1955 and 1959, the incomes of the peasantry increased by 50% between 1957 and 1959. A number of measures designed to improve national education and the network of medical institutions were introduced.

At the present time the most important problem facing the Vietnamese revolution, as pointed out by the resolution of the III Congress of the Workers' Party of Vietnam, is the building of socialism in North Vietnam, which will create a firm basis for the further development of the revolution and the struggle for a peaceful unification of the country.

The building of socialism in North Vietnam is associated with basic changes in all areas of economics, with the creation of new socialist productive relationships through the liquidation of private ownership of the means of production and the substitution of national and collective property.

Resolutions of the III Congress of the Workers' Party of Vietnam stress that under the present conditions the first and most important step is a culmination of the socialist reorganization of all areas of the country's economy and primarily of agriculture.

In conducting socialist reorganizations in the agriculture of the DRV, the Workers' Party guides itself by the tenets of the Marxist-Leninist theory, by the Lenin cooperative plan which, as underlined by the Announcement of the Conference of the Representatives of the Communist and the Workers' Parties, "proved its great lifelike realism both for the countries where a long standing tradition attachment of the peasant to private property had prevailed and in countries which have recently ended with the feudal relationships".

In view of the fact that the process of cooperativization in the country is not completed, the Congress devoted considerable attention to the problem of further ways, forms and methods of conducting this largest measure. "In the matter of cooperativization of agriculture," states the resolution of the III Congress, "we must invariably and firmly adhere to the class line of the party in the village, relying first of all on the poor and middle peasantry of the lower levels, striving for close solidarity with the middle peasants; it is necessary to constantly adhere to three principles: voluntariness, mutual advantage and democratic direction."

A place of importance at the Congress was occupied by the problem of the relationship of the Party to the national bourgeoisie. Under conditions existing in Vietnam the national

bourgeoisie, in view of its weak position, did not perform an active political role and appeared as an ally of the working class in the anti-imperialist and anti-feudal struggle. At the present time the people's democratic government of Vietnam utilizes the national bourgeoisie in the interests of the building of a socialist society. The Party outlined a course for the re-education of the private industrialists and traders in a spirit of socialism.

The central problem of the entire period of transition to socialism is the building of a socialist industry. In viewing this problem, the Congress based itself on the fact that the country contains the richest deposits of a most varied selection of minerals (coal, iron ore, apatite, tin, tungsten, chromium and other ferrous metals). This permits a gradual development of the non-ferrous and ferrous metallurgy, the chemical industry, metal working branches, etc. The creation of a domestic heavy industry in the country, as underlined by the resolution of the Congress, is not a goal in itself. It must be closely associated with the distribution of labor and with the cooperativization in the world socialist system; it must also be coordinated with the development of agriculture, light industry and the handicraft industry of the country and planned in a manner that would permit the fullest possible satisfaction of the growing requirements of the national economy and in the end result to promote an uplift in the living standards of the population.

Basing itself on these main determinations, The Congress discussed the directives on the First Five Year Plan of the republic for 1961-1965.

The Congress pointed out that fulfillment of the First Five Year Plan must establish a foundation for the creation of a material-technical basis of socialism in North Vietnam, to assure the future realization of socialist industrialization and to fully complete the socialist reorganization of all branches of the economy.

By the end of 1965 the value of industrial production in the country will exceed the one attained in 1960 by 148%. The average annual rate of development will be 20%. Despite considerable development of agricultural production, which will increase over the five year period by more than 50%, it will comprise 49% of the gross national product by the end of 1965, while industrial production will comprise 51% of the gross national product. In other words, the country will gradually change from an agricultural country into an industrial-agricultural country.

As a result of the socialist reorganizations, a new upsurge will be felt in the handicraft industry, domestic trade, transportation, etc. A true cultural revolution will be conducted in the country, the general educational and cultural

level of the population will rise, scientific and technical knowledge will be widely disseminated. The future rise in the material standard of living of the population of North Vietnam is being planned at the same time.

The resolution of both small and large tasks in the building of socialism in the DRV set by the III Congress will require considerable strength and means. Documents pertaining to the Congress indicate that as long as the country has only recently freed itself from colonial oppression and the development of industrial power has not yet reached a high level, during the given stage the DRV requires material aid from the socialist camp which will be conducive to a faster and a more certain progress of North Vietnam along a path of building a socialist society.

The practice of building socialism in Vietnam substantiates the contentions of the Announcement adopted at the Conference of the Representatives of the Communist and Workers' Parties, regarding the fact that the success attained by the Vietnamese people, just as the one attained by the peoples of other socialist countries, was achieved "due to the proper application of the general rules of socialist construction with a consideration of the historical peculiarities of each country and of the interests of the socialist system as a whole, due to the efforts of the peoples of all of these countries, their close brotherly cooperation and mutual international aid, as well as, primarily, the brotherly, international aid by the Soviet Union."

The center of attention at the Congress was taken up by the second most important task of the Vietnamese revolution -- the unification of the country.

As commonly known, due to the support of American imperialism the South Vietnamese government undermined the conduct of the free general elections that were stipulated by the 1954 Convention at Geneva, on the territory of the entire country, which were to unify the North with the South. At the time when North Vietnam became engaged in the building of a basis for socialism, the problems pertaining to the anti-imperialist and anti-feudal matters remain unresolved in the South of the country.

The development of a revolutionary movement in the South, states the resolution adopted by the Congress, is associated with the struggle for a unification of the country. At the same time the Congress underlined the fact that the government and the people of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam "are decisively following a policy for a peaceful unification of the homeland, strictly adhering to the Geneva Conventions." As far as the concrete paths and methods for the realization of the unification are concerned, the Congress pointed out that the application of a reasonable and just principle preserves its significance, one that was proposed in the program of the Vietnamese Home

Front. In accordance with it, both sides must in common discuss and coordinate among themselves the problems concerning the unification of the country, without forcing each others' opinions on the other party and without exerting pressure upon each other. The reunification of the country must be conducted gradually, step by step, stage by stage.

There is no doubt that the Vietnamese people, under the direction of the Workers' Party of Vietnam -- the combat headquarters of the working class and of all the workers, will successfully accomplish the grandiose program of the building of socialism in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam as outlined by the III Congress of the Party.